

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: DOE COMPASS

Q. What is the purpose of the COMPASS site?

A. The purpose of the site is to provide parents and community members with snapshot data of the schools in and around their communities.

Q. Why was the ASAP changed?

A. The new COMPASS site is designed to improve the user experience by offering quicker and easier to read information for parents and the community on school demographics and important school performance information in such areas as ISTEP+, graduation rate, and college readiness than was previously available on ASAP.

Q. Some of the information that used to be on ASAP is no longer on COMPASS. Where can I go to access that information?

A. Some pieces of information that were previously on ASAP have been removed for a variety of reasons; however, COMPASS still provides information for parents and community members regarding important areas of school performance.

There are other places where administrators, teachers, and researchers can go to access information. Administrators and teachers can register for and securely log in to Learning Connection to access school, classroom, and student-level information on ISTEP+ and growth model performance. In the coming weeks, look for additional reports on End of Course Assessment, AYP, and graduation cohort. To visit Learning Connection, go to <http://learningconnection.doe.in.gov>.

Researchers can access ISTEP+ data at the school and school corporation level for multiple years by going to the ISTEP+ test results site: <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/2010/>; files with school- and corporation-level graduation cohort information (including graduation rate breakdowns by subgroup) can be accessed on the graduation rate site: <http://www.doe.in.gov/gradrate>. Additional historical data are still available on the customized school data reports page: <http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/SAS/sas1.cfm>.

Q. Is there a plan to provide additional, updated reports that can be accessed by researchers?

A. Yes. In the coming weeks, a site will be created that provides large, non-protected (aggregated) data sets at the school and school corporation levels. The data sets will include data such as attendance, assessment, teacher information, etc.

Q. The charts and graphs provided on the COMPASS site are very helpful, but how do I find the exact numbers or percents that are being represented on these charts and graphs?

A. The charts and graphs have a “hover over” functionality built into them. Simply scroll your cursor over the piece of the chart or graph that you would like to know more about and both a number and a percent should appear. For example, if you click on the “Student Performance” tab and look under Assessment, you can scroll your cursor over the pie chart and see that 67.70% of students (342,393) passed both the English/Language Arts and Math portions of the ISTEP+.

Q. The ASAP site allowed me to “drilldown” and see additional reports on different sets of data (e.g., ISTEP+, demographics, graduation rate, etc.). Does COMPASS still have these drilldown reports?

A. Yes. Most reports on COMPASS allow you to drill down and see disaggregated data. If you scroll over a report and your cursor turns into a hand, this means that you may drill down and see more data associated with this report. In most cases, these drilldown reports disaggregate data to display the same data set broken down by race/ethnicity, socio-economic status (determined by free and reduced price meals), special education and English Language Learners.

Q. The ASAP site used to have multiple years of ISTEP+ data, but I only see 2010 on the new COMPASS site. Is there a plan to add historical ISTEP+ data?

A. Yes. In the next few weeks, historical ISTEP+ data will be added to the COMPASS site, allowing you to select different years to view student performance (overall and for various subgroups).

Q. I’m trying to find assessment data for a high school, but all I see is “ECA data coming soon.” What does this mean?

A. In 2009-2010, Indiana changed from using the ISTEP+/GQE test for its high school accountability test to using the End of Course Assessment (ECA). Final ECA data for the 2009-2010 school year will be posted on each high school’s site within the next few weeks.

Q. Certain pages of the COMPASS site have an odometer called a “Goal Meter” on the left side of the page. What does this Goal Meter mean?

A. The goal of the Indiana Department of Education is that:

- 90% of students pass both English/Language Arts and Math portions of the ISTEP+;
- 25% of all graduates receive a score of 3, 4, or 5 on an Advanced Placement Exam; a 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate exam; or receive the equivalent of 3 semester hours of college credit during their high school years; and
- 90% of students graduate from high school.

The Goal Meters located on the Overview, Assessment, Graduates and Advanced Programs pages of COMPASS show school and school corporations’ progress toward meeting these goals. If a school or corporation’s Goal Meter is pointing toward the green section of the meter, this means that the school or corporation is meeting or exceeding these goals.

Q. One of the Department of Education’s goals is that 25% of all graduates receive a score of 3, 4 or 5 on at least one Advanced Placement exam, a 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate exam, or receive the equivalent of 3 semester hours of college credit (Dual Credit) during their high school years. I only see data for Advanced Placement. Where are data for the International Baccalaureate and Dual Credit?

A. Dual Credit data are not yet available. The Indiana Department of Education will collect Dual Credit data during the 2010-2011 school year. Once these data are collected, COMPASS will be updated to include these data. The Indiana Department of Education is also working with International Baccalaureate® to receive student-level scores. Once student-level scores are received, COMPASS will be updated again to include these data.

Q. For some schools, data does not appear for certain subgroups. Is this a mistake?

A. Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student performance data (including assessment, graduation, college readiness and advanced programs) may not be displayed for any group of less than 10 students. In situations where certain data do not appear,

this means that less than 10 students at a particular school or corporation are part of a particular subgroup and therefore, data are suppressed.

Q. Why is Advanced Programs and School Personnel information not available for non-public schools and corporations?

A. School Personnel information is not available for non-public schools and corporations because only non-public schools that are accredited high schools are required to submit School Personnel information to the Indiana Department of Education. For the most part, Advanced Programs and School Personnel information is not available and therefore not displayed on COMPASS.

Q. In looking at Teacher Roster data for my school, I don't see the entire list of teachers. Why not?

A. To scroll through the entire list of teachers for the school, click on the blue arrow at the top of the report to scroll to the next page.

Q. Who can I contact if I have questions or suggestions about COMPASS?

A. For questions or suggestions about the COMPASS site, please contact compass@doe.in.gov.